

# The Hale Expositor.

J. A. MENZIES, Editor and Publisher.

"Here the Press the People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Gain."

For All That Is Right In The Republican Party

Vol. XXXIX, No. 5.

40th Year.

YALE, St. Clair County, Mich., THURSDAY, April 28, 1921.

\$2.00 Per Year in Advance

## First Visited Brockway Centre In Sixty-Three

Lines Dictated in 1903 By James Brown, Who Was One of Our Early Settlers

(We bring before our readers this week reminiscences from the mind of our deceased fellow townsman, James Brown, which were given to and taken down on paper by his son, C. S. Brown, during the last few weeks of the former's life in 1903. Our readers will bear in mind that this sketch was written eighteen years ago, and that it was not brought to completion.)

### PEN PICTURES

Of Men and Scenes of the Past

While passing a very restless night recently troops of shadowy, misty faces of old-time residents of Brockway Centre, whose bodies are now mouldering under the sods of the valley, with their toes turned up to the daisies, came marching along in rapid succession, bringing up vivid recollections of old Brockway Centre, and its appearance and growth from a small straggling hamlet, through long years of struggle and difficulties which have been overcome, and which have resulted in as thriving and prosperous a town as there is in Michigan.

Occasionally presented themselves bright faces that then were boys and who are yet living, their hair turning gray, and who have since, in these intervening years been factors in the development and prosperity of what is now Yale.

The writer of this first visited Brockway Centre forty years ago this summer (this was two years previous to his final settlement in the township of Brockway, being here on a visit). There wasn't much of it. A few straggling houses along Main street, a good deal of cow pasture, and mud galore, (although in this latter respect we haven't much to brag of yet.) The Masonic hall being the northern terminus, the foot of the hill to the south being the southern terminus, there being no back or side streets to the embryo village. It was a wild looking place. North street, east and west had no opening into the country. Fields on either side of the road right in the village.

The north side of what is now North street was picturesquely adorned with pine stump fences, while the fields they enclosed were literally a wilderness of pine stumps some of them of huge dimensions. Not a single house north of North street.

There were no churches, religious meetings being held in the old red school house, which then stood on the spot where now stands the building occupied by W. A. Cavanagh (Fred Taylor). If we had a history of that old school house, its inmates, their after life, it would be an interesting one. Originally it was painted red but convenience in lighting the fires on winter mornings had robbed the sides here and there of pieces of the red clap-boards which were replaced by patches of boards without any reference to size, and the adornment of paint was lacking in all such new work. The lower panels of the door had long since been kicked out.

But the inside of the school house was a picture. The desks being pine boards, nailed to the side walls all around the building, with long stools to correspond. Those desks were a study. Hieroglyphics, pictures of things known and unknown, and names of the carvers, all cut out with jack-knives. Our illustrious cowboy preacher was even then of note and influence, and his name was conspicuous by largeness and depth. There were a few straggling seats of very ancient construction in the center. All kinds of meetings, political and religious, many a Methodist shout echoed between its walls and many a political schemer had his hopes blasted and his ambitions for emoluments and office were nipped in the bud, but there came a time when progressive ideas demanded places more suitable for religious worship and a place for teaching the young ideas how to shoot. Then came a kick, a struggle, a fight—progressives and anti-progressives—the anti-progressives being men who had no kids of their own. The struggle waxed warm and fierce, until one dark night the old structure went

up in a blaze which ended that fight. Our present town hall (this building as a town hall stood on the property where the feed barn is now located at the time this story was written) was built on the old site and served its purpose for many years and then had to be replaced by the beautiful high school building which now adorns the head of Mechanic street.

More conveniences for religious purposes became a necessity. The old Christian Adventist church was the first in the village. It also served its purpose, became dilapidated and weather beaten, unsafe, and had to be torn down and was replaced sixteen years ago by the neat little brick Chapel which has been the home for the Church of Christ that had been organized 23 years ago. The M. E. church was the next, and then the M. P. These churches have had their vicissitudes, their ups and their downs and have all been the means of bringing numbers into the fold. In later years in succession came the Free Methodist, then the Disciple church, then the Presbyterian, and last of all the Roman Catholic—a goodly number of churches to be supported by 1,200 inhabitants—the world meanwhile looking on with amazement at the divisions which even they recognize as inconsistent with the teachings of the Savior that His followers might be one.

At an early day camp-meetings were favorite gatherings amongst the Methodists, not a summer passing without two or three of them in the vicinity. Old time songs, old time preachers and old time preaching, with shoutings of victory, which were often heard for miles.

Those were happy days for the Methodists who often in relating their experiences now refer feelingly to those good old times where wonderful manifestations were in order and a camp-meeting without such manifestations would be looked upon as a failure. Those good old days are still mourned by many as amongst the lost arts.

Of the scores of religious thought, scores have come and gone, and eternity alone can disclose the extent of their building, for every man's work shall be made manifest because it shall be revealed by fire and the fire shall try every man's work, of what sort it is, if his work abides he shall receive a reward; if it be burned he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.

Three characters have appeared at the windows of my mind seeking especial notice. Two of them for long service and one as a curiosity. Elder Lester Clark, an old veteran of the cross and a pioneer in religious building of thought from a very early day in the history of old Brockway Centre. Although seventy years of age he is still hale and hearty and yet does a good service for the Master. He preaches more funeral sermons probably than all the other preachers in the village put together. Much of his time is spent in obedience to the teaching of the divine scripture in visiting the sick, praying with them, administering counsel, consolation and loving service at many a dying bed.

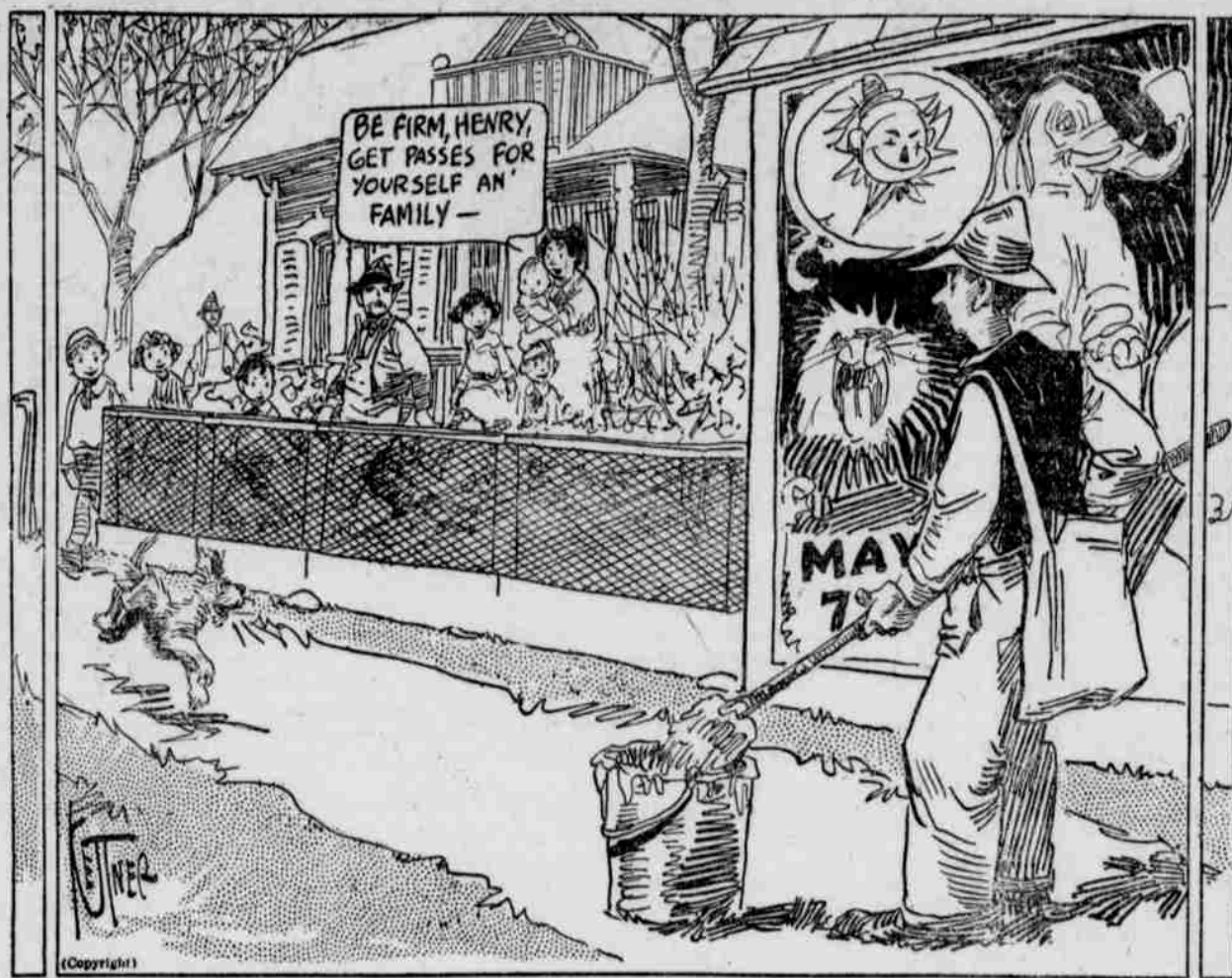
The above concludes the paper. Elder Lester Clark, spoken of as one of the three, died in 1916, at the age of 83 years. To the end as full of service as during all the years before.

We can only infer that the other two are Elder J. H. Paton, of Almont, who preached through this country for many years and who was Mr. Brown's own pastor, and that of the Brick chapel. He is still alive, but very feeble in both health and mind as we understand it. The third character, spoken of as a curiosity, must mean Yale's own Sam Bettes, whom everybody knew. Mr. Bettes died last winter.

There will be a sale of used clothing and home-baking Saturday, April 30, 1921, at M. E. church rooms by the Willing Workers (Class -o. 4) of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Expositor liners pay.

## Circus Season Opens



### CENTENNIAL NOTES

Miss Nina B. Lamkin and Miss Edna G. Keith spent Tuesday in Yale and met the leaders of Fraternal, Church, Civic and Industrial groups who are to take part in the historical pageant, in 15 minute conferences beginning at 11:00 a. m. Each leader was given instruction as to the scene in which their group would appear, the costume, quantity of material for each and colors together with instructions how to make it; also the date of the first rehearsal.

The Local Executive Committee met with Miss Lamkin at 4:00 o'clock and held a conference with the local teachers at 4:30. At the evening meeting Miss Lamkin announced that she would be in Yale next Wednesday, May 4th, all day, meeting groups of school children until 4:00 p. m. and groups of older people in the evening until 10 o'clock. Miss Keith made an Indian Costume and left it as a specimen of what is required in that line, she also left with Mrs. Peacock a book of color charts and designs for costumes for each group to be represented.

It is expected that every member of every group will be present at the weekly rehearsals.

Preliminary programs of the forthcoming pageant are now being printed and will be ready for distribution in a few days.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST REJOICE AND FEAST TOGETHER

What at first was intended to be only a winners' contest reward banquet among the Sunday school classes of the Church of Christ was finally participated in by the whole church when it was known that the new basement dining room and kitchen would be in readiness by the time set for the banquet.

So everybody got busy to make the affair a big, glorious, get-together thanksgiving time, and last Friday evening at six o'clock, about eighty persons sat down at the long tables, which looked very pretty and hospitable in white linen and bouquets of flowers and loaded with good things to fill the inner man.

When the enjoyable meal was over all repaired to the auditorium above and listened to several good speeches by Rev. Eldred Charles, who had come down from Caro for the occasion, Rev. Strobbridge, the present pastor, and Elder McCall.

Plenty of good music enlivened the program and the evening passed quickly and pleasantly.

### NOTICE

I wish to inform those boys who have been in the habit of getting excused from school and going to the Council Chamber to play cards that the practice must be quit at once. If there is any more of it those who are taking part in the work will be dealt with according to law.

JOHN HENRY,  
City Marshal

## MOTHERS' DAY PROCLAMATION

By The Governor

It is a beautiful custom which decrees that one Sunday in the year shall be set apart for the purpose of honoring the memory of the mothers who have gone from us and of paying a tribute of affection and reverence to those who are still left to us. It is impossible to compute our debt to our mothers. Their devotion and sacrifice guarded and sheltered and cared for us from the cradle up to manhood and womanhood. To them most of us owe whatever there is of sterling character in our make-up. The mother is the heart of the home, and from the hearthstones around which linger the recollections of our mothers, come inspirations that give hope and courage and steadfastness to fight the battle of life.

Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Michigan, I do hereby designate and set aside Sunday, May 8th, 1921 as Mothers' Day and call upon our people both young and old, to gather in their several places of worship and take part in services appropriate to the day.

And let absent sons and daughters take this occasion to visit the mother in the old home, or where such a visit is impossible let them send a message of cheer and greeting.

In accordance with a resolution of the Congress of the United States, I further request the people of Michigan on the day aforesaid to display the United States flag in their homes and in other suitable places, as a fitting expression of their desire to pay homage to American motherhood.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of Michigan this twenty-second day of April in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and twenty-one, and of the Commonwealth the eighty-fifth.

ALEX J. GROESBECK,  
By the Governor: Governor  
CHARLES J. DELAND,  
Secretary of State.

### Contrast In Weather Between Two Aprils

Warm weather with excessive rain has marked the first three weeks of April, the weather report shows. The total for the first 21 days is 165 degrees above normal, and the rainfall is 1.88 inches above.

This is in direct contrast with last year's record for the first three weeks in April when the temperature fell to 69 degrees below the normal mark, and the rainfall was but .21 of an inch above.

Second annual dinner given by the men on Thursday evening May 5th, at 6:00 o'clock.

### WILL BE OBSERVED IN YALE

A meeting, attended by about thirty of our citizens was held at the Council Chamber last Monday evening, to talk over the matter of observing Decoration Day in this city.

This matter had in other years been looked after by the G. A. R. Post, but that body last fall surrendered its charter, and Mayor Jacobs called the meeting for the purpose of seeing what could be done by our people.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chas. W. Jacobs, and Henry P. Ohmer was appointed chairman. Geo. B. Green was secretary and the following committees were named:

Parade and Arrangements—Chas. W. Jacobs, James Robbins and John Thompson.

Flowers—Mrs. Thos. Johnston, Mrs. C. T. Peacock, Bert McDonald and the school children.

Autos—Chas. S. Brown, Edw. Sheehy and J. B. Paisley.

Entertainment—A. T. Greenman, C. W. Jacobs, Chas. Barr.

World War Veterans—Basil Welch, Wm. Fletcher and John Thompson.

Chief Marshal of Parade—Jos. Hebertson.

The complete program for the day's doings will be published as soon as the committee has it prepared.

Union Memorial services will be held on Sunday, May 29th, at the M. P. church, Rev. D. W. Ryan will deliver the address.

### Yale Wins From Capac; Loses to Port Huron

In a most exciting, well played contest, Yale H. S. won over Capac by a score of 8 to 6, in the first game of the county schedule Monday afternoon.

Capac was represented by the strongest team in the history of their school, but the local boys, with Summers pitching one of the finest games ever seen here, demonstrated their superiority.

Yesterday the team went to Port Huron but returned this time on the losing end of a 21 to 13 score. The game was very loosely played, with many errors, which accounts for the large score. Yale out hit their opponents, but failed to give Summers the support necessary to win the game. Summers pitched a splendid game, striking out fourteen Port Huron boys, while his opponent only succeeded in fanning five of our boys.

Yale has now won three of the five games played. Seven more games remain to be played and the chances are that the locals will win a majority of them and will finish at or near the top in the county championship race.

Tuesday the high school team will play Mariette on the local field, and on Friday St. Clair will be here for the third county game. Show your enthusiasm by your attendance.

Try one of our liners. Subscribe for the Expositor.

## Newsy Notes From Our Neighboring Cities and Towns

### BOUNTIES PAID TOTAL BIG SUM

County Spends Many Dollars In War Against Rodents, Crows, Etc.

The amount of money expended in bounties in St. Clair county during the past year reaches a surprising total according to the figures given out by Alex Cowan, county treasurer. Mr. Cowan states that from Jan. 1, 1920 to January 1, 1921, the bounties for rats and sparrows totaled \$2,217.88. The bounties for weasels, woodchucks, owls and crows totaled \$3,121.

For rats and sparrows the orders are issued by the township and city clerks, and are presented to the secretary of the board of auditors, who in turn draws a warrant on the county treasurer.

For weasels, woodchucks, owls and crows, the orders are issued by the county clerk on the county treasurer. The county receives back from the state 50 cents for every \$1 expended in bounties for weasels, woodchucks, owls and crows, but does not receive anything back for rats and sparrows. A county official stated today that the amount expended in bounties in St. Clair county had made no apparent decrease in the ranks of sparrows, rats, owls, woodchucks, weasels or crows.

### BUSINESS CHANGES HANDS

Emerson Cooper, who has conducted a store in the Masonic block for the past four years, last week sold out the business to Mr. T. M. Udell, who is now in charge. Mr. Cooper and family will leave some time this summer for California, where they will make their home.

During the time Emerson has been in business here he has built up a large trade, and it is with a feeling of regret that his many friends have learned that he will leave the city, but all join in wishing him success wherever he may decide to locate.

Mr. Udell hails from Crosswell, where he has had many years experience in the mercantile line, and is a very pleasant gentleman to meet. His friends in that locality are legion, and from all reports he is a valuable addition to Yale's business circles. We extend to him the glad hand and wish him all kinds of success.

### Ask Heirs to Support Bank

A request that his heirs continue to promote the growth and best interests of the First National bank of Capac, is contained in the last will and testament of the late Alexander C. Downey, former prominent banker of Capac. The will, filed for probate, states that it is the former banker's desire that the Capac bank continue to prosper and the support of the banking institution is requested of his heirs.

Two daughters, Mrs. Ida Martin and Mrs. Mae Willert, are named chief beneficiaries of the estate, which will approximate \$50,000. A grandson, Downey Martin, is will 10 shares in the First National bank at Capac, and 240 shares of Reo Motor company stock.

### O. E. S. Election of Officers

At the annual election of the Order of the Eastern Star, held on Wednesday evening this week, the following were put into office for the ensuing year:

Worthy Matron—Mrs. Rhea Andrae.

Worthy Patron—Geo. B. Green. Associate Matron—Mrs. Olive Jacobs.

Secretary—Mrs. Etta Clyne.

Treasurer—Mrs. Minnie Richardson.

Conductress—Mrs. Edna Peacock.

Associate Conductress—Mrs. Rachael Fead.

### MASONIC TEMPLE ASSOCIATION FORMED

St. Clair members of the Masonic Fraternity and affiliated bodies are organizing a Masonic Temple Association with the aim in view of the erection of a Temple here in the not far distant future. It is understood that options upon various pieces of property have been taken. It is planned to raffle off a new Ford Sedan when the new hall is completed.

### Thumb Tales Tensely Told—Interesting Items Gleaned From Our Exchanges

An Eastern Star organization will be formed in Marysville.

There are 30 members of the class of '21 graduating from St. Clair high school.

The Thumb Association of the Order of Eastern Star will hold its spring meeting in Sandusky on May 27th.

After the heavy rains of last week Port Huron citizens were asked to boil the drinking water until it cleared up.

Joseph Casello, Italian, Port Huron's pioneer fruit merchant died last week of pneumonia. He was 84 years of age.

Thieves are working in and around Capac. Sheriff Maines and a deputy were out that way on the job last week.

The employees in Uncle Sam's service in Port Huron are now armed, and woe to bandits who seek to loot the mails.

Thirty-six bushels of wheat were taken from the John Doty farm near Capac last week and foreigners are suspected.

The Port Huron Horticultural Society will hold an exhibition of wild flowers at the public library, Port Huron, on Saturday, May 7th.

A Memphis man secured 236 names on a petition to restore the train service of the Pere Marquette to its old schedule. All were glad to sign.

Mrs. Louisa Fenton, aged 94, fell at the home of her daughter, Mrs. H. M. Pierstine, in Memphis on Wednesday last week, and died in a few hours from the shock.

Black and white signs showing the way to Marysville, are being put up along the roads in conspicuous places. Both directions and distance are told by the signs.

A big crew of workmen are on the job of building the Port Huron Sarnia Club's park in South Park. It is expected that the park will be in readiness for the opening game with Kitchener May 14th.

Irving and Bruce Kempf, of Capac, who have been travelling with their Swiss village for many years, have built a model city during the past winter, which they will exhibit along with their other attractions. C. H. Wills hasn't a thing on the Kempf Brothers.

There are twenty-seven graduates from the Richmond school this year. The motto of the class is "Finished, Yet Beginning." Dorothy Simmons has been chosen valedictorian, her standing being the highest, 93.74 per cent, and Frances T. Dennis comes next as salutatorian, her standing 93.73 per cent.

A man supposed to be Logan Lee, a negro, who is charged with slashing his wife's throat in Detroit passed through St. Clair on his way to Canada. He stopped at George Miller's house and asked for a meal and money enough to get across the river. Miller, not knowing Lee, complied with the fugitive's request and gave him 50c. When last heard of the negro was on his way down the river on the Canadian side.

The old Morran house in Algoona is believed to be the oldest in St. Clair county. It was built in 1821 by John Morran and his wife and they raised a large family, two sons are now living there, 73 and 65 years of age, both bachelors. John Morran was 110 when he died and his wife lived to be 96. The house occupies a corner of a city block the land in which the two sons cultivate. They also fish for a living. Their home is something of a curiosity.

Anthony Obar from near Elkton, who was arrested last January on a statutory charge, made by his 14-year-old daughter and released during the present term of court because the daughter refused to appear against him, returned to the county jail for protection. He stated that he had been given a tar and feather party by some of his neighbors, none of whom he recognized. He told the sheriff that he was taken out in a car about midnight, given a coat of tar and feathers and left in the road. The story was substantiated by the tar still on his body beneath his clothing.